grains like corn, barley and millet alongwith the purchase of these grains at that price;

(b) whether this action of Government would help the farmers of the dry and semi-dry areas to get the better price of their produce alongwith food safety for them; and

(c) whether with this step the demand of the wheat would come down because of which its import will not be required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Maize (Corn), Barley and millets (Bajra, Jowar and Ragi), each year. The MSPs are aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the produce and they are uniform through public and cooperatives agencies. Food security is taken care of by the welfare schemes such as Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana. (SGRY).

(c) The procurement of coarse grains is undertaken by the State Government and their Agencies. The demand for wheat is unlikely to be significantly affected due to procurement of coarse grains.

Suicide cases

†3047. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of total suicides being committed in the country, 16 per cent suicides are being committed by the farmers only;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and whether the Tata Institute of Social

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sciences have published its reports by studying the reasons of such suicides; and

(c) if so, the details of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the data published by the National Crime Records Bureau, the suicide committed by those self-employed in farming/agriculture sector comprise about 16 per cent of the total number of suicide in the country.

(b) and (c) The Tata Institute of Social Sciences in their report titled as "Causes of farmer suicides in Maharashtra: An enquiry" have brought out that the main causes for farmers' suicide are, *inter alia*, repeated crop failures, inability to meet the rising cost of cultivation, indebtedness, inadequate access to extension machinery, declining opportunities in non-farm employment, and absence of irrigation. The corrective measures suggested in the report include suitable payment to the families of suicide victims, putting in place an insurance safety net, and revamping of Government extension machinery.

Assistance to Uttaranchal

3048. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of Central funds allocated and released by Government for Uttaranchal for development of horticultural projects, agriculture, animal husbandary and dairying during the last three years and during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): The details of funds allocated and released to the State Government of Uttaranchal during the period in question under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to agriculture, animal husbandary and dairying are given in the attached statement.